



Application No.: 10/069,116
Examiner: Ross, Dana
Art Unit: 3722

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-39 (Cancelled).

Claim 40 (New) A security element for protecting objects of value, the security element comprising a thermochromic layer combined with a translucent layer, and the thermochromic layer being disposed under the translucent layer, the translucent layer producing different color effects in reflected light upon a change of viewing angle and containing liquid crystal pigments or a relief structure in the form of a diffraction structure combined with a transparent dielectric layer or with a metal layer present at least in certain areas in the form of a screen.

Claim 41 (New) The security element according to claim 40, wherein the thermochromic layer is opaque below a predetermined temperature and at least translucent above said temperature.

Claim 42 (New) The security element according to claim 40, wherein the screen is present in the form of a dot or line screen.

Claim 43 (New) An object of value comprising a security element having a thermochromic layer combined with a translucent effect layer, the thermochromic layer being disposed under the effect layer, the security element disposed completely on the surface of the object of value, and the translucent layer producing different color effects in reflected light upon a change of viewing angle and containing liquid crystal pigments or a relief structure in the form of a diffraction structure combined with a transparent dielectric layer or with a metal layer present at least in certain areas in the form of a screen.

Claim 44 (New) The object of value according to claim 43, wherein the screen is present in the form of a dot or line screen.

Claim 45 (New) The object of value according to claim 43, wherein the thermochromic layer is all over.

Claim 46 (New) The object of value according to claim 43, wherein the thermochromic layer is provided only in certain areas.

Claim 47 (New) The object of value according to claim 46, wherein the thermochromic layer is provided in the form of characters and/or patterns.

Claim 48 (New) The object of value according to claim 46, wherein the thermochromic layer is combined with at least one further thermochromic or visually recognizable layer, the layers supplementing each other to form recognizable information.

Claim 49 (New) The object of value according to claim 43, wherein information in the form of characters and/or patterns is disposed under the thermochromic layer.

Claim 50 (New) The object of value according to claim 49, wherein the information is printed or produced by means of a laser.

Claim 51 (New) The object of value according to claim 49, therein the information has visually and/or machine testable properties.

Claim 52 (New) The object of value according to claim 51, wherein the information has luminescent or magnetic properties.

Claim 53 (New) The object of value according to claim 49, wherein the information is black.

Claim 54 (New) The object of value according to claim 43, wherein the thermochromic layer is opaque below a predetermined temperature and at least translucent above said temperature.

Claim 55 (New) The object of value according to claim 43, wherein the thermochromic layer is translucent or transparent below a predetermined temperature and opaque above said temperature.

Claim 56 (New) The object of value according to claim 43, wherein the security element is a label.

Claim 57 (New) The object of value according to claim 43, wherein the object of value is selected from the group consisting of a security paper, security document and product package.